App. F. IX-4

1921.

File No. 24-4

Previous References (Legis)

Serial Nos. 1-2

Later References

P.S.R. / 12/3/26

General and Revenue Secretariat.

Serial Nos. Two

A collection

Manuscript **Part A** for September 1923.

SUBJECT

Introduction of the Cinema Act in Mysore

Ramaswamy Iyengar
18/12/26

1921

~~Previous Reference~~ File No. 24-21

GOVERNMENT OF HIS HIGHNESS THE MAHARAJA OF MYSORE.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE GENERAL AND REVENUE SECRETARIAT.

For September 1923.

Judicial and Legislative.

Legislation.
Introduction of the Cinema Act in Mysore.

"A" Collection. Serial No 1-2

Table of contents.

Serial No	Number and date of letter and contents.	Page in Proceedings
	Letter No. 790 dated 2-12-20, from the Secretary Economic Development Board. Forwards for orders of Govt. proposals of the Education Board regarding the introduction of the Cinema Act.	
	Letter No. Pol.1142 dated 16-6-23, to the Secy. to the Resident in Mysore. Forwards a copy of the Cinematograph Bill with a statement of objects and reasons and states that the Bill has been introduced into the Legislative Council.	
	G.O. No. P 1754 dated 23-9-23, to the Compiler, Mysore Gazette. Orders the publication of the Regulation to make provision for regulating exhibitions by means of cinematographs which received the assent of His Highness the Maharaja, on the 4th day of September 1923, as Regulation No. XII of 1923.	

F. R. S. 11] 1924

GENERAL AND REVENUE SECRETARIAT.

(~~Legis~~ Legis)

NOTES.

24-24
File No. ~~324-2~~

FILE HEADING.

Introduction of the Cinema Act in Mysore

From

Jun. Sec. to Govt. Development Board.

No. 490 Dated 2.12.20 Received 4.12.20

Diary No. 4331	Enclos.	Spare Copies.	Serial No. 1

BRIEF ABSTRACT OF LETTER.

Forwards for orders a Govt proposal of the Education Board re Introduction of the Cinema Act

NOTES AND ORDERS.

The measure proposed seems to be deserving of adoption. The Legislative Secretary may be asked to make necessary further steps

KNH. S.K.V.

G. R. S. III-2.

General and Revenue Secretariat. | File No. 8[illegible] of 19[illegible]

Serial No. 13145

I believe the films shown
Mysore are generally those sh
in British India under licens
2) There is however no harm
passing a Regulation similar to
Brit. h Maim Act - the mai
more a Police question ra
than an Educational quest
3) The file may be transfe
to the Prohibition Branch for furt
action -

C. S. Balasundaram
15/12

Protection Bd
Subd
If approved, the opinion of
D. G. of Police will be called
in the first instance.

SGR 17/12

It seems to be desirable to have
Subd for perusal

G. R. S. III-2,

13146

General and Revenue Secretariat.

Luggo File No. 24 of 1924.

Serial No.

Received, with Cinematograph Licenses Rules. Needs to be worked up

Mir Hamza Hussain

25/12

Dir P. M. 27/

8) Subd the British Indian Rules provides for licensing Cinematographs & for certifying films as being suitable for public exhibition & the films used in the state are generally ~~passed~~ hired for the occasion and are mostly those which already exhibited in British India after having certified by the Licensing Authority. The following points Subd. for consideration & orders

1) In the proviso to section 4 Local Govts are authorised to constitute for the whole or part of the Province licensing authorities

G. R. S. III-2]

General and Revenue Secretariat. | Legs File No. 14 of 1924.

Serial No.

Dl magistrates Jr is for orders if a similar pow as has to be reserved Govt here

) Since the films exhi here are generally those exist in British India & are hit for the occasion it is for consideration if a Sepa mark has to be mad in the film in addit to the one followed by the authority in British In under SS. 5(2) & 7(2) o ~~if Such~~ but however exempt certain exhi as provided in S 9 Exhibition of films certi in British India may be exempted under p section.

G. R. S. III-2]

General and Revenue Secretariat. | Legs File No. 14 of 1924.

Serial No.	
7.	12) If all the films certified in Br India are to be exempted under Section 9 in Mysore, the Operation of the Regulation will be very much restricted, viz to films not approved in Br India (which are perhaps rarely brought here) and to films which may be prepared locally (which is perhaps a remote contingency). If so, the question arises as to whether a Regulation is at all necessary at least at present.

Subd AR 29/11 A3 R

13) Please see remarks on the margin

14) The question as above will arise now in view of the order of the Chief Secy & the Members

Please work up & prepare a Bill

Get printed copies as if available in Bangalore

General and Revenue Secretariat.

Leg. File No. 24 of 1929

Serial No.

15) Send me a draft bill with statement of objects & reasons

Sd S.G
15/1/1929 S.K.S
15/1/29

16) The draft bill is on the lines of the British Indian Acts, with suitable verbal alterations. There are however, certain points which require consideration before adoption and certain others, which do not appear to be applicable to Mysore.

17) In sec 3 it is provided that no exhibition is permitted except in a place licensed under this Regulation It is not clear whether the person who runs the Show, has to obtain a license for running it, if he runs it in a licensed building or place. Usually the place is hired, and the owner of the Cinematograph is not the owner of the place. If the place is licensed, can it absolve the owner of the exhibition from obtaining a license In sec 6 (1) a distinction is drawn between the owner or Cinema & the owner of the place. As only Certified films are to be exhibited

G. R. S. III-2,

General and Revenue Secretariat.

Leg File No. 14 of 1971

Serial No.

It is apparent that the runner of the show must obtain a license also The point must be made clear, unless the runner of the show obtains a license to cover both which does not appear to be what is intended by the Regulation, if Secs 5 & 6 are construed together

18) Sec 5 (2) provides that only certified films are to be exhibited, and Sec 7 deals with certification of films Taken together, the result is that every film to be exhibited, has to be certified the prescribed authority in Nepal It is a point for consideration whether films certified in British India may be exempt from the operation of these Sections As almost all films shown here, are hired, as pictures are certified in British India, there will probably be no scope for Sec 6 (7) if such an exemption is given Revenue to be expected thereby, is also

19) Under Sec 6 (1), the runner of the show & the owner the place, are made liable for Con any provisions of this Regulation As place is almost always there is a

13145 6

G. R. S. III-2.

General and Revenue Secretariat. | Leg File No. M of 1921

Serial No.

Vide note Supra (Owners liability Sec Cinematograph) S.H.

Yes - power is in may remain S.H.

No harm. Section may remain as drafted S.H.

A.S. with thanks brings up-to-date S.H. 7/1. S.H. 7/1.

Recd on 5.1.22

for Consideration whether the owner of the place is to be punished for any act of the runner of the Show. He may perhaps be saved this

10) 6 (2) provides for the Confiscation of films whether hired film can be so treated is a point for Consideration

11) Sec 7 in its present form is suitable for British India as there are a number of different local Govts. There, and a film acceptable in one presidency, may not be so in any other. The section is drafted to provide for such contingencies. Such a case does not arise in regard to even if it does arise in any particular place, Sub-Sec (5) of Sec 7 will provide for it. The other sub-sections will have to be suitably altered or one or two of them may have to go

12) Necessary rules will have to be framed & issued along with the Regulations as Cinemas are already working in the State

13) The points detailed above, may be considered either now, or left to the Select committee

G. R. S. III-2]

4391

General and Revenue Secretariat.

Leg File No. J/M of 1921.

Serial No.

4) The Bill seems suitable
S. Hariyannaiya
23/5

2nd Member

5) Please make the necessary
alterations in the Bill
in Tabular statement
and send it back
with the
amended Bill.

The amended file
is to be sent to the Secretariat
Office on or before 3 o'clock
on Wednesday. Please see that
these orders are complied with
without fail

Sir Hamilton Harris
26/5/22

As for attention
24 3/5
Legislative Assembly
Office
3/5

R S. III-2]

General and Revenue Secretariat.

Legs File No. 24 of 1922

Serial No.

26) Subd. with a Statement of Objects & Reasons as drafted
The proceedings of the Legs Cl. relating to the Bill are also put up.

S.B. 30/6/22 A.S.R 1/7/22

(2nd number)

C Abdul Ghani
Cag
3.7.22

27) The draft bill may be approved.

28) Thence submit the same may be despatched by mail.

Sir Hayward
28/8

Dewan
28/8/22
Cag 28/8

29) Papers may be returned by Cl.
A R Bar

11

(For Disposal by Circulation.)

No. C. 140

.....1922-23.

GENERAL AND REVENUE SECRETARIAT.

Council Matter.

SUBJECT.

Draft bill for regulating Exhibitions by means of Cinematographs.

CIRCULATED TO THE MEMBERS OF COUNCIL

By Order,

Chief Secretary to Government.

.....15th September ...19.22.

Final Note by the Second Member of Council.

Subject :—

Draft Bill for regulating exhibitions by means of Cinematographs.

33 The Cinematograph is becoming increasingly popular. While its value is undoubted both as a means of mass education in matters of public interest and as an instrument for Visual instruction to children its possibilities for evil are also great. In British India exhibitions by Cinematographs are brought under strict censorship by the Government of India Act XXIII of 1918 and the Education Board have recommended the enactment of a similar measure in Mysore for the regulation of such exhibitions. A Bill has accordingly been prepared on the lines of the British Indian Act and is herewith submitted. The main provisions of the Bill are that Cinematograph Exhibitions should be held only in places licensed for the purpose and that the films exhibited should also be such as are certified by a duly constituted authority, the penalty for contravening these provisions being a fine extending to Rs. 100 together with liability to forfeiture of the film if the Court deems fit to order the same.

34 The Bill has been approved by the Dewan and the Members of Council and His Highness' gracious permission is solicited for placing it before the Legislative Council.

Mysore, 24th Sept: 1922.

MEMBER OF COUNCIL.

Submitted to His Highness.

35 *I submit herewith a Final Note by the* SECOND *Member of Council on the subject of* Draft Bill for regulating exhibitions by means of Cinematographs,

....

for His Highness' gracious approval.

Dewan.

26 SEP 1922

Record of Cases submitted for the Orders of His Highness the Maharaja

Subject.

Introduction of the Bill for regulating exhibitions by means of Cinematographs, into the Legislative Council.

28

36) **Order.**

~~KRW~~

28/9/22

G. R. S. III-2.]

General and Revenue Secretariat. | File No. of 192

Serial No.

"Introduction of the Bill for regulating exhibitions by means of Cinematographs"

(*)

31. All urgent or confidential files returned with His Highness' orders may, in the absence of instructions or indications to the contrary, be ordinarily circulated to the Members of Council for perusal after the issue of orders.

33. The Secretaries concerned should see that orders in the cases referred to above are issued at once and that the files are returned immediately after to the Chief Secretary for circulation to the Members.

34. In all other cases, the files will first be circulated to the Members of Council at headquarters and then sent to the Secretariat concerned for the issue of orders.

Circulated to the Members of Council for perusal of His Highness' orders before / after issue of orders. (*Vide* Rules 31, 33 and 34 or the Subsidiary Rules for the conduct of business of Council in the Manual of Council Rules and Procedure.)

Chief Secretary to Govt.

Through the Secretary to Government,
.....General.....Department. 1/10/22

3243-262
17.10.22

FIRST MEMBER OF COUNCIL

SECOND MEMBER OF COUNCIL

THIRD MEMBER OF COUNCIL.

G. R. S. III-2)

S 141

16

General and Revenue Secretariat.

Legislative File No. 24 of 19 24

Serial No.

The file has not been circulated for perusal of His order as there is no action to be taken on the file till and the meeting is proposed, this file may further be sent to CS for circulation

Sd/-
Secy
Confidential Branch
with Compts
20.10.24
Asst
Sec
Cag
6/10

If approved the Bill may be included in the next meeting Agenda

Yes.
Cag
24/10

SC
20/10/24
Asst
Sec

Submitted with the forms for obtaining the previous sanction of the Governor to introduce the Bill

The 18th member has signed the form. For favour of according permission

Sd/-
Secy
11/4/24
Asst
Sec
11/4

Dewan)

Cag
11/4

B. G
11/4/24

G. R. S. III-2j

General and Revenue Secretariat.

Less File No. 5141/14 of 19 21

Serial No.

37) Leave was granted to introduce the Bill at the meeting on the 16th inst

Order with a direct publishing the Bill

Gaz 18/6/23 Ext 19/6 Issued 280 & c of 23/6/23

Issued 20/6

38) Order with a direct forwarding a copy of the Bill to the Resig

86 S.G 16/6/23

38 Issued C Abstract 15/6 S.L.

To

The Secy. to the Resident. No. pol 1142 of 16-6-23.

Forwards a copy of the Cinematograph Bill with the Statement of objects & reasons which may be in the scope of the Bill and states that the Bill has been introduced into the Legislative Council.

39) Order the Bill to be read & referred to a Select Comm the members of the Comm have to be settled

S.G 21/6/23 Ext 21/6 A.S.R

General and Revenue Secretariat.

Legislative File No 14 of 1923

Serial No.

40) Submitted for favour of nomination of the members for ~~favour~~ the Select Committee as per instructions conveyed in another case a list of members, from which selection may be made, is herewith submitted in closed cover

(Sd Member)

C Ahmad Esq
21.6.23

41) I do not think there is any need to refer this to a select committee at the next meeting. It may be taken as read & passed. if possible, without reference to a select committee

F Rai
Nil
22.6.23

42) Please circulate the recommendation that the bill be not referred to a Select Committee

Yes.
22.6.

Subject:—

Promulgation into law of the Bill for regulating exhibitions by means of Cinematographs.

44) His Highness was graciously pleased to sanction, on the 28th September, 1922, the introduction into the Legislative Council, of the Bill to regulate exhibitions by means of Cinematographs.

45) Leave was granted to introduce the Bill at the meeting held on the 16th April 1923. The Bill was read in Council on the 29th June 1923 and it was considered unnecessary to refer it to a Select Committee. The Bill was finally passed on the 11th August 1923.

46) Gracious sanction of His Highness is now solicited to promulgate the Bill into law.

Bangalore,
23rd August 1923.

MEMBER OF COUNCIL.

Submitted to His Highness.

(47) *I submit herewith a Final Note by the* First *Member of Council on the subject of* promulgation into law of the Bill for regulating exhibitions by means of cinematographs *for His Highness' gracious approval.*

Dewan.

27 AUG 1923

STATEMENT OF CASES SUBMITTED FOR THE ORDERS OF HIS HIGHNESS THE MAHARAJA DURING THE TOUR OUTSIDE THE STATE IN.....August.....1923.

Serial No.	Subject	Recommendation of Council, or Member of Government in charge, as the case may be	Dewan's recommendation	Orders of His Highness	Orders regarding submission of files (*vide* foot-note)
99	Promulgation into law of the Bill for regulating exhibitions by means of cinematographs.			144 48) approved by His Highness subject to his instructions 4/9/23 (C)	

Railway
13 SEP 1923
Shown on the map
Railway acquisition
Station
Proposed
Shown

NOTE.—The letter a, b or c may kindly be inserted by the Private Secretary to His Highness in the last column to indicate whether—

File may be submitted at once ... ... a
File may be submitted after His Highness' return ... ... b
File may not be submitted at all c

WD 2272—GPB —500—5-3-20

General and Revenue Secretariat.

Legs File No. 24 of 1927

Serial No.

(49) Subd The file has to be sent to the 1 B. for circulation of H. H's orders to the Members. Rules under the Cinema Regn are worked up & Subd Separately.

Hdk 17/9/23

50) Gen'l Secy has ordered that the file may be first circulated in person of H H's orders before promulgation

C Abd

1st member 2nd member

51) Put up

Mir Hamza 18/9

18/9/1923

cur 18/9

LAH 18.9.23

52) Secy to K. R Secn

18/9

53) Promulgate C Abd 19-9

Re 19/9

54) Subd with a draft G.O. publishing the Cinema Regulation

Hdk Int M R. 21/9/23

55) Issue C Abd 21.9

2 6 the Compiler in Gazette Sanct. 1754 & 23/9/23

~~promulgates the Bill into law~~

Orders on publication of the Regulation to make provision for regulating exhibitions by means of Cinematographs, which

WD 01229—GPB—37,500—19-26

App. F. III—2]

eneral and Revenue Secretariat | Legis File No 74 of 192 1.

Serial No.

Received the assent of H H the Maharaja, on the 4th day of Septr 192 as Regulation No XII of 1923.

Rev 4/12

4331

Edn 324.20

Tel. Address
Bangalore & Mysore
MYSECON.

4 DEC 1920

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT BOARD,
MYSORE GOVERNMENT.

No. 790/13

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY TO THE BOARD,

Dated Bangalore, 2/12/ 192

FROM

~~M. N. MYSORE, ESQ., B.A., BAR.-AT-LAW.,~~
The SECRETARY TO THE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT BOARD,
BANGALORE.

To

The Secretary to Government
Departments of Education and Agriculture,

SIR

I am directed to forward herewith for the orders of Government copy of letter No.68 dated the 18th November 1920 forwarding a copy of the note by Rev. Father Tabard on the Censorship of Dramas and Cinemas with an extract of proceedings of the Board regarding the introduction of the Cinema Act.

I have the honour to be,
Sir,
Your most obedient servant,

For Secretary,
Economic Development Board.

Copy of letter No.68 dated the 18th November 1920 from the Secretary, Board of Education to the Secretary, Economic Development Board.

I am directed to forward herewith copy of a note by Rev. Father Tabard on the Censorship of Dramas and Cinemas, and to state that the same was discussed at the last meeting of the Board of Education on 2nd October 1920. A copy of the British Indian Cinema Act that was before the Board at the meeting is also enclosed together with an extract from the proceedings of the meeting containing the resolutions of the Board in the matter.

I am to request that the recommendation of the Board to introduce a Cinema Act may be kindly placed before Government for orders.

For Secretary

NOTE ON CENSORSHIP OF THE DRAMA AND THE CINEMA

(by the Rev. A.M. Tabard, M.A., M.R.A.S.)

Among the several means devised for the entertainment and education of the masses, Drama, whether in India, ancient Greece, or even Pre-Roman Italy, has always held a most prominent place. Bharata of Natya Shastra fame informs us how drama was first enacted at the Mahendra hill by the victorious Indra at the head of his Angel-hosts, the theme being the defeat of the Asuras or demons, who had to fly before his resistless thunderbolts. This myth shows how Indian Drama had its rise in the desire of people to witness, as often as possible, the martial doings of their national gods and heroes. From this it gradually widened to include within its scope display of emotions, more especially of the amorous state as in the Sakuntala of Kalidasa, and latterly representations of social conditions, and the unfolding of character in individuals of all ranks of life under special circumstances, of which the Mricchakatika or the Toycart of Sudhraka can be taken as an instance.

As far as I can see, in no sense did the Indian Drama arise in the desire to see the mysteries of religion enacted before one's eyes, as undoubtedly did the Dionysian Mystery plays in ancient Greece or the Moralities and Passion Plays in Medieval Christian Europe. Not so in India, though I am aware that some writers like A.W. Ward affirm that Indian Drama owed its origin to similar causes. Of the ten forms of Drama enumerated by Bharata, the Nataka form which has survived to this day, is based either on the heroic or the amorous, but no trace of any religious preoccupation is to be found, either in this or in any of the other nine forms. It was long afterwards when Buddhism and Jainism had begun to throw into the midst of the Brahmanic Society apples of discord, that character sketches and social delineations found a need for representation, the result being Prakarana plays like the Toycart.

In short, I think we may take it for granted that Indian Drama

owed its rise not to the wish for inculcating moral and religious precepts by means of scenic or histrionic displays. but to the need felt for keeping up national valour and deepening the sense of national pride in the great fights, conquests and loves of the foremost men of the land. The old dramatic authors like Dhananjaya and Bharata scorned the idea that Drama was only a means of imparting moral and religious instruction. The former expressly says that he would like to bid adieu for ever to such silly puritans when they happened to cross his path. Thus, infusion of martial spirit and enjoyment in general were the main-springs of the Indian Drama, though rigid rules as to the selection of Heroes and Incidents were laid down, calculated to render the whole representation ennobling, heartening and purifying.

Indian Drama, in this national sense, I make bold to say, has long since disappeared from the country. The causes are historical. From the eleventh century onwards, India has known foreign conquest and has had to bow before it. Internal peace extending over centuries and the absence of chances to defend one's own Mother-land, have resulted in making the people as a whole unwarlike, non-aggressive and more prone to seek pleasure in puerilities rather than in sterner, more manly stuff. Indian Drama, as far as my experience goes, at present, is practically non-existent. The immortal plays of classic India, such as the Kumara Sambhava, Malavika Agnimitra, Svapha-vasavadatta, Mudra-Rakshasa, etc. have long ago lost their hold on the imagination of the people, and this has resulted in the Drama getting divorced from the modern world of culture. Since I am speaking in general, I must not be taken to ignore exceptions such as the Sughuna Vilasa Sabha of Madras, the Sarasa Vinodha Sabha of Bellary and our own Amateur Dramatic Association in Bangalore.

These associations which are recent are composed of men of education and culture, and plays have been and are being composed by some of them tending to raise the decadent Indian stage into higher levels. But, as I said before, these are exceptions and the fact remains that many plays reveal in both the authors and the actors

deplorable lack of anything which might have a claim to artistic or cultural value. We are given plays which have no plots, characters which have no individuality, sentiments which never rise above lust or ribaldry and which disgust one by the vileness in the make up of the stage, at any rate in the South. Even when the themes dramatised are noble ones like Harischandra, Nala and Damayanti, episodes from Mahabharata, etc. the way these are adapted and presented on the boards is calculated to make lovers of the true Drama weep so deep has the once proud Indian Drama fallen. The translator of Sheridan's "Pizarro" into Tamil says in his preface

"To our infinite shame, an infamous crowd of debased cockneys of the slums of our modern towns and cities have taken to begin playwrights and actors as well, and the result can be better conceived than described. These are the "yelling Yahoos whom the scandalous and senseless license" of our times allows to be our teachers, recreators and life-painters in the divine demesne of the Drama.

"Under the auspices of Great Britain new life is being poured into languishing veins,' and our time-honoured ideals, whether in civic or personal conduct, are fiercely beset by and are wrestling with a thousand alien temptations. A juncture like this is eminently fitted for the thoughtful and patriotic among us, to portray in some measure the contending ideals in the pages of well-composed plays, plays which would not only hold the mirror to nature but hold it in such a high, intellectual manner, that only men of culture, refinement and good breeding can interpret them aright on the boards.

"In this connection, it is a pleasure to have to record the invaluable services rendered to the cause here set forth by authors like the late lamented Krishnamacharlu, Mr. K. Srinivasa Rao of Bellary and Mr. P. Sambhandam, Rao Saheb of Madras, the latter especially who not only by his splendid adaptations into Tamil of the masterpieces of the West, but also by his high historionic talent has acted as a laudable pioneer in the creation of a sensible, intellectual dramaturgy for South India.

"Work of a more strenuous kind is needed in the direction of

which Mr. Sambhandam has given us the lead. I mean the bringing into our literature through the medium of Tamil, the unparalled masterpieces of Europe, preferably those of England to begin with. In the single age of Shakespeare alone, there are plays left to us by immortals such as Marlowe, Webster, Middleton and Tourneur, which any nation should be proud of to possess in its own vernacular. Here is work for the best and the most scholarly among us.

All this in my opinion leads to the following conclusions:-

That the Indian Drama was once a highly cultured branch of literature, the outcome of the genius of great Indo-Aryans.

That it gradually deteriorated for reasons which were inevitable to a certain degree; and that at present reform is necessary both in the domain of production and in that of acting.

The evils of permitting this state of affairs to continue must be apparent to every lover of Indian literature. The drama in its very nature is an acted story. Its immediate effects on <u>all</u> minds, and its gradual or mediate effects on the mind of students are considerable. It is absolutely essential therefore, in a well-ordered State, that careful scrutiny should be exercised on the publication of plays which are meant to be put on boards, and also on the manner in which these plays are rendered by the actors. This scrutiny should extend not only to new plays, but also to the existing apologies such, which in many cases are, I am told, mere outlines to be filled in by the actors <u>extempore</u> on the stage. The time of the performances also must not be left to the will and pleasure of the companies themselves, but must as in Bombay, Calcutta and other centres, and, as in the case of European companies, be restricted by regulations (only in Municipal and other Urban areas) to stated hours in the night, say, between 9 P.M. and 12 midnight, or at the most to 1 A.M. To effect this and other necessary reforms, a Board should be constituted, the members of which might be, the Registrar of Publications, the I.G. of Police, the I.G. of Education, and two or three prominent non-official men of culture. Their supervision over plays - whether already in vogue, or newly published - should

be minute and careful, and it is only after they have been licensed that the highest Police or Magisterial authority in any given area should permit the companies concerned to put them on the boards. If necessary, special precautions should be taken to see that in the actual performance of the plays, the actors do not give way to ribaldry and indecorum either in action or speech.

All this on the Preventive side.

On the constructive side, I should like to suggest that the Department of Public Instruction issues invitations to the best intellects of the country to compose original plays, or to adapt from classical sources of all civilised countries in the world, plays which should, in the words of the extract quoted above, "not only hold the mirror to nature, but hold it in such a high, intellectual manner, that only men of culture, refinement and good breeding, can interpret them aright on the boards."

With regard to Cinema shows they are undoubtedly inferior to Dramas in cultural or artistic effects, as inferior as photograph is to painting. Yet one cannot deny their great educational value. Nothing has as yet been invented to surpass, or even to equal it, in its definite capabilities to instil knowledge into one without the least appearance of doing so. All study is laborious, especially when it is undertaken as study. Acted Dramas and recitals of Puranas, while they may not appear to be deliberate methods of inculcation, in fact are such, in so far as they set out with the definite idea of teaching, improving, reforming. The Cinema, on the other hand, professes no such lofty ideals; its aim is merely to please to help to while away an hour or two. It is in this very assumption of nonchalance, this air of ease and abandon, that its excellence lies. Visual instruction besides, is the one that does impress more easily the mind more especially of the children and the illiterate masses and the Cinema has this great advantage over lantern slides that it can show a picture as full of life as in a Drama.

What books can describe only in words, Cinemas bring actually

before one's eye. The appearance, the habits, the modes of dress of peoples all over the world, historical places, far-famed scenery are yours to see and understand as if you had been suddenly transported into these places books have made you dream of. A thousand views and incidents of strange parts of the world are transported with their settings and made to unfold their several beauties before a stay-at-home Indian's eyes, without any effort on his part. stay-at-home Londoner or Parisian on the other hand, is enabled to view and reflect on men and things of the Mysterious East, without stirring hand or foot from his favourite haunt. Can there be anything more wonderful? The Cinema, has made the world shrink into a very small compass, has divested it of its distance, mystery and strangeness and has made us realise the idea of that human family set before us as an ideal by the Scriptures. Yet again, nothing great or exciting can happen anywhere, but it is at once caught up by the alert Cinema, and, within a month or so, it is repeated vividly and with utter truthfulness before a thousand eager eyes in all parts of the globe. We have been able during the Great War to appreciate fully the value of the Cinema when after the dryness of the "Communique's" the Cinema has placed before our very eyes the battles of Ypress, la Somme and Verdun, or Marshall Foch dictating the Allies' terms of the Armistice to the Germans in his Railway Saloon or again the never before seen, and never to be forgotten Pageants of victory in London and in Paris.

I have said enough to show the Cinema as an agency for Mass Education, but also there is another side of the picture. We all know what is meant by Yellow Journalism - sensation, startling sensation from beginning to end. What Journalism of this kind does by glaring headlines and outrageous details, a number of Cinemas effect by exhibition of bezarre incidents or disgusting forms of crime and sensuality. To some young and impressionable minds, these exhibitions of criminal ~~ingeun~~ ingenuity and dare-devilry, are fraught with the greatest danger. The full extent of this

danger is easily understood when one remembers the cool, deliberate manner in which all the possibilities of science are invoked and unfolded, to enable the criminal to outwit justice and achieve success. The imagination of the young is easily fired up and their passions are easily excited and one is led to ask oneself if Cinema shows have not been responsible for many social and sensual crimes.

The Government of His Highness the Maharaja of Mysore have long ago, with true insight, ordered the liberal use of the Magic lantern as an instrument for diffusing knowledge and deepening instruction throughout the province. They may well take a step further and order the production of Cinema films on all objects of geographical interest, ethnic peculiarities, strange and disappearing customs, architectural beauties as well as on notable contemporary pageants. This would be a branch, and not the least successful one of education. On the other hand I would suggest the overhauling, by the Censorship Board (if it is at all formed) of all the existing 6e Cinemas in this State, and the rigid enforcement on them of the type of films considered desirable in the interests of civic and juvenile morality. If the educational value of the Cinemas for mass-education is incalculable, its possibilities for evil are equally as great if not greater.

It might perhaps be worth while for Government to subsidise special companies who would undertake to place before the Mysore Public only what is best in that line so that all the subjects of His Highness the Maharaja might be conscious that their Beloved Ruler has seen that all that is beautiful or interesting in the world as well as the most notable incidents of past and present history have been brought to them to enjoy as if they had really seen those places with their own eyes or been actually spectators of the incidents depicted on the screen.

28-4-1920.
SK/2

Secretary,
Board of Education.

Extract from the proceedings of the meeting of the Board of Education, M.E.C. held at the Public Offices, Bangalore, on Saturday the 2nd October 1920.

Subject: Note on the Censorship of Dramas and Cinemas by Rev. Father Tabard.

Copies of the British Indian Cinema Act had been circulated among the members. The Board was not in favour of taking up the question of Censorship of Dramas. The powers of interference of the Police in the matter were also considered. As regards Cinemas the Board resolved that the introduction of a Cinema Act for the Censorship and licensing of films be recommended to Government.

"Copy"

Bangalore,
15th November 1920.
SK

Secretary,
Board of Education.

OFFICE OF THE DEWAN OF MYSORE.

Dated 13th April 1913

Rajamantrapravina Dewan Bahadur
Mr. P. Raghavendra Rao Member of the Mysore Legislative Council, is hereby permitted to introduce a bill to provide for regulating exhibitions by means of Cinematographs

at a meeting of the said Council, subject to the rules for the time being in force under the Mysore Legislative Council Regulation, No. of 1907.

Dewan of Mysore.

Office of the First Member of Council

Bangalore

Dated April 1923

To

A. R Banerji Esq., C.S.I., C.I.E.

Dewan of Mysore.

SIR,

I beg to request your sanction in writing under Section 12 of Regulation I of 1907, for introducing a bill to provide for regulating exhibitions by means of Cinematographs

at a meeting of the Mysore Legislative Council.

I have the honor to be,
Sir,
Your most obedient servant,

P Raghavendra Rao

Member. 11. 4. 23

G. R. S. VI—S-III/13]

DRAFT

SUBJECT .....

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Section. L-C
File No.
Serial No.

No. 780 / L-C

Diary No. of letter replied to.....

GENERAL AND REVENUE SECRETARIAT,

( )

, the.....*191*

Date of issue..... 27/5/25

Signed by.....

NOTIFICATION.

Under Rule 31/39 of the Rules for the conduct of business of the Mysore Legislative Council, the accompanying Bill to provide for the regulation of exhibitions by cinematograph is published for general information with the statement of objects and reasons.

By Order,

Sd/- 25/4

Secretary, Mysore Legislative Council.

(Here print the accompanying Bill with the statement of objects and reasons).

To

The Compiler, *Mysore Gazette* for publication in Part III of the Gazette in English and Kannada and for sending 100 copies in English and 25 copies in Kannada to this office. Proof should be sent to this office for approval before publication.

To the Translator Section

2/5

1914

G. R. S. VI—(1. .4]

SUBJECT..... .....

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.....

Diary No. of letter replied to———

General and Revenue Secretariat

( )

, the *191* .

Date of issue 16 June 1923

Signed by Mr. C. Hamelgham

Section Legs

File No. 24-21-

Serial No 1

No. Pol 1142 (Ent 2)

dt 16-6-1923

To

The Secy to the Resident

I am directed to forward herewith a copy of the Cinematograph Bill with a Statement of objects & reasons which explains the scope of the Bill and to state that the Bill has been introduced into the ~~Legislative~~ Council

I have etc.

for Chief Secy

A Bill to make provision for regulating exhibitions by means of Cinematographs.

Whereas it is expedient to make provision for regulating exhibitions by means of cinematographs; His Highness the Maharaja is pleased to enact as follows :--

Short title, extent and commencement.

1. (1) This Regulation may be called the Cinematograph Regulation, 19..

(2) It extends to the whole of Mysore

(3) The Government may by a notification in the official Gazette, direct that the whole or any of its provisions shall come into force in any local area on such date as may be specified in the Notification.

Definitions.

2- In this Regulation, unless there is anything repugnant in the subject or context-

''Cinematograph includes any apparatus for the representation of moving pictures or series of pictures;

'Place' includes also a house, building, tent ~~or vessel~~; and

'Prescribed' means prescribed by rules made under this Regulation.

Let the word 'Vessel' remain, as in other Acts. Such a case is conceivable, though not of ordinary occurance. Can Govt. may remain this

Cinematograph exhibitions to be licensed

3. Save as otherwise provided in this gulation, no person shall give an exhibition by means of a cinematograph elsewhere than in a place licensed under this Regulation, or otherwise than in compliance with any conditions and restrictions imposed such license.

Licensing authority.

4. The authority having power to grant licenses under this Regulation (hereinafter referred to as the 'licensing authority' shall be the District Magistrate.

Provided that the Government may, by notification in the official gazette, constitute for the whole or any part of the State such other authority as it may -- specify in the notification to be the licensing authority for the purpose of this --- Regulation.

5.(1) The licensing authority shall not grant a license under this Regulation unless it is satisfied that --

(a) the rules made under the Regulation have been substantially complied with; and

(b) adequate precautions have been taken in the place in respect of which the license is to be given to provide for the safety of persons attending exhibitions therein.

(2) A condition shall be inserted in every license that the licensee will not exhibit, or permit to be exhibited, in such place any film other than a film which has been certified as suitable for public exhibition by an authority constituted -- under Section 7 and which, when exhibited, displays the prescribed mark of that authority, and has not been altered or ~~xxxxxx~~ tampered with in any way since such mark was affixed thereto.

(3) Subject to the foregoing provisions of this Section, and to the control of the Government, the licensing authority may grant licenses under this Regulation to such persons as it thinks fit, and on such terms and conditions and subject to such restrictions as it may determine.

6. (1) If the owner or person in charge of a cinematograph uses the same or allows it to be used, or if the owner or occupier of any place permits that place to be used, in contravention of the provisions of this Regulation or of the rules made thereunder, or of the conditions and restrictions upon or subject to which any license has been granted under this Regulation, he shall be punishable with fine which may extend to one thousand rupees and, in the case of a continuing offence, with a further fine which may extend to one hundred rupees for each day during which the offence continues, and his license(if any) shall be liable to be revoked by the licensing authority.

(2) If any person is convicted of an offence punishable under this Regulation committed by him in respect of any film the convicting Court may further -- direct that the film shall be forfeited to His Highness the Maharaja.

7. (1) The Government may by a notification in the official gazette, constitute as many authorities as it may think fit for the purpose of examining and certifying films as suitable for public exhibition, and declare the area (hereinafter referred to as the 'local area') within which each such authority shall exercise the powers conferred on it by this Regulation. Where an authority so constituted consists of a Board of two or more

persons not more than ~~one~~ half of the members thereof shall be persons in the service of Government

(2) If any such authority after examination considers that a film is suitable for public exhibition, it shall grant a certificate to that effect to the person applying for the same, and shall cause the film to be marked in the prescribed manner The certificate of any such authority shall, save as hereinafter provided, be valid throughout the ~~territories~~ areas in which this Regulation is in force.

(3) (a) If the authority is of opinion that a film is not suitable for public exhibition in the local area, it shall inform the person applying for the certificate of its decision and such person may, within thirty days from the date of such decision appeal for a reconsideration of the matter by the Governmen

(b) If the Government rejects the appeal, it shall, by notification in the official gazette, direct that the film shall be deemed to be an uncertified film in that local area and such direction shall have effect notwithstanding the subsequent grant of a certificate in respect of the film by any other such authority.

4) Any such authority may demand the exhibition before itself of any certified film which it has reason to believe is about to be publicly exhibited in

its local area and may by order suspend the certificate of any such film pending the orders of Government, and during such suspension the film shall be deemed be an uncertified film in that area.

(5) The District Magistrate may, by orde suspend the certificate of any film pendin the orders of the Government, and during such suspension the film shall be deemed to be an uncertified film in that district or town.

(6) A copy of any order of suspension made under Sub-section (4) or (5) together with a statement of reasons therefor, shall forthwith be forwarded by the authority or the officer making the same to the Govern-ment and the Government may in its discre-tion either discharge the order or, by notification in the official gazette direct that the film shall be deemed to be an uncertified film in the whole or any part of Mysore.

(7) The Government may, of its own moti by notification in the official gazette, direct that a certified film shall be deem to be an uncertified film in the whole or any part of Mysore.

(8) The exhibition of a film to which any order or direction under clause (b) of sub-section (3) or sub-section (4) (5),(6) or (7) is for the time being appli cable shall, in the area to which such - order or direction relates, be deemed to b a contravention of the condition mentioned in sub-section (2) of Section 5.

8. (1) The Government may make rules for the purpose of carrying into effect the

provisions of this Regulation.

(2) In particular and without prejudice to the generality of the foregoing power, rules under this Section may provide for --

(a) the regulation of cinematograph exhibitions for securing the public safety;

(b) the procedure of the authorities constituted for examining and certifying films as suitable for public exhibition and all matters ancillary thereto, and the fees to be levied by those authorities;

(c) the appointment of officers subordinate to authorities constituted under Section 7 of such officers; and

(d) any other matter which by this Regulation is to be prescribed.

(3) All rules made under this Regulation shall be published in the official gazette and on such publication, shall have effect as if enacted in this Regulation.

9. The Government may by order in writing exempt, subject to such conditions and restrictions as it may impose, any cinematograph exhibition or class of cinematograph exhibitions from any of the provisions of this Regulation or of any rule made thereunder.

Statement of objects and reasons. 42

****

The Bill is designed to ensure proper control of cinematograph exhibitions with particular regard to the safety of those attending them; and to prevent the presentation to the public of improper or objectionable films. The special danger from fire which attends cinematograph exhibitions as has been illustrated by terrible catastrophes due to this cause in other countries render it important to secure, in the interests of the safety of spectators, a proper regard to the structural conditions of the premises utilised.

The Bill accordingly provides that no exhibition shall be given except in accordance with the conditions of a license granted by the prescribed authority. This license is intended to ensure that the intentions of the Regulation are complied with and that adequate precautions are taken for the safety of persons attending the exhibition which it covers. The Bill also provides for the construction of an authority which will be required to pass all films intended for exhibition in the State and which will have power to refuse the necessary certificate in the case of any film, the production of which in public is open to objection for the reasons already given.

The Bill includes the ordinary rule making provision and enable the Government to exempt any cinematograph exhibition or class of cinematograph exhibition of the law finally it makes provision for th punishment of offences against the Regulation or the rules made thereunder.

The Education Board have also recommended the adoption of the British Indian Cinema Act.

The Bill is passed on the lines of British Indian Act II of 191

P & I 1650

R. O. 2.—R. P. B.—11—1922.—5,000.

No. 4962 Enclos. Dated Bangalore, 25th June 1923
97-1923.

6273
P

From A. N. L. Cater, Esq., I.C.S.,

SECRETARY TO THE RESIDENT IN MYSORE.

To The Chief Secretary to the Government of
His Highness the Maharaja of Mysore.

P
23 JUN 1923

Subject:—

Forwarding a copy of the Cinematograph Bill.

Sir,

I am directed to acknowledge the receipt of your letter No. Pol.1142, dated the 16th June 1923, forwarding a copy of the above Bill.

I have the honour to be,
Sir,
Your most obedient servant,

for SECRETARY TO THE RESIDENT.
AYR

G. R. S. VI.—s-III/14]

DRAFT.

SUBJECT.....

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Section. Legis
File No. 24 - 21
Serial No. 2

Proceedings of the Government of H. H. the Maharaja of Mysore.

Order No. P 1754/Leg I/23 dt 23-9-23

To the Compiler

Ordered that the accompanying.....

Regulation to make provision for regulating exhibitions by means of Cinematographs

which received the assent of His Highness the Maharaja, on the.....fourth

day of.....September 1923

be published as Regulation No.....XII.....

of 1923, in the *Mysore Gazette* for general information.

SL 2

Secretary to Government.

To

The Compiler, *Mysore Gazette*, for publication in Part III of the Gazette, in English and Kannada and for supply of .....spare copies in English, and .....spare copies in Kannada ~~to this office, and.....spare copies in English and.....spare copies in Kannada to the Curator, Government Central Book Depot, Bangalore.~~ as per standing orders. Proofs should be sent to this office for approval before publication.

Diary No. of letter replied to.....

GENERAL AND REVENUE SECRETARIAT,

( )

, *the*.....*191*

Date of issue.....23/9/23

Signed by.....Mr. C. A. S

May this be—

(i) Printed?

(ii) Treated as a standing order?

(iii) Published in the "Gazette" English part?

(iv) Translated?

(v) Placed at the disposal of the Press?

(vi) Published in the "Gazette" Kannada part?

21/9/23

GOVERNMENT OF HIS HIGHNESS
THE MAHARAJA OF MYSORE.

General and Revenue Secretariat

Requisition for papers

Section Legis

A A Collection

B

Filed

Deposit No.

File No. 48-21

Serial No. 1-4

To be put up Diary No. 1. For submission 19. Minister

Signature

Branch H. Sec Legis R...

Section

Date 28/2/41

WD 03702—GPB—750 books of 100 pp. each—16-10-39

REGULATION NO. XII OF 1923.

A Regulation to make provision for regulating exhibitions by means of Cinematographs.

RECEIVED THE ASSENT OF HIS HIGHNESS THE MAHARAJA ON THE FOURTH DAY OF SEPTEMBER 1923.

Whereas it is expedient to make provision for regulating exhibitions by means of cinematographs; His Highness the Maharaja is pleased to enact as follows:—

Short title, extent and commencement.

1. (1) This Regulation may be called the Cinematograph Regulation, 1923.

(2) It is extended to the whole of Mysore.

(3) The Government may, by a notification in the official gazette, direct that the whole or any of its provisions shall come into force in any local area on such date as may be specified in the notification.

Definitions.

2. In this Regulation, unless there is anything repugnant in the subject or context—

'Cinematograph' includes any apparatus for the representation of moving pictures or series of pictures;

'Place' includes also a house, building, tent or vessel; and

'Prescribed' means prescribed by rules made under this Regulation.

Cinematograph exhibitions to be licensed.

3. Save as otherwise provided in this Regulation, no person shall give an exhibition by means of cinematograph elsewhere than in a place licensed under this Regulation, or otherwise than in compliance with any conditions and restrictions imposed by such license.

Licensing authority.

4. The authority having power to grant licenses under this Regulation (hereinafter referred to as the licensing authority) shall be the District Magistrate.

Provided that the Government, may, by notification in the official gazette, constitute for the whole or any part of the State such other authority as it may specify in the notification to be the licensing authority for the purpose of this Regulation.

Restrictions on powers of licensing authority.

5. (1) The licensing authority shall not grant a license under this Regulation unless it is satisfied that—

(*a*) the rules made under the Regulation have been substantially complied with; and

(*b*) adequate precautions have been taken in the place in respect of which the license is to be given to provide for the safety of persons attending exhibitions therein.

(2) A condition shall be inserted in every license that the licensee will not exhibit, or permit to be exhibited, in such place any film other than a film which has been certified as suitable for public exhibition by an authority constituted under Section 7 and which, when exhibited, displays the prescribed mark of that authority, and has not been altered or tampered with in any way since such mark was affixed thereto.

(3) Subject to the foregoing provisions of this Section and to the control of the Government, the licensing authority may grant licenses under this Regulation to such persons as it thinks fit, and on such terms and conditions and subject to such restrictions as it may determine.

Punishment for contravention of this Regulation and rules made thereunder.

6. (1) If the owner or person in charge of a cinematograph uses the same or allows it to be used, or if the owner or occupier of any place permits that place to be used, in contravention of the provisions of this Regulation or the rules made thereunder, or of the conditions and restrictions upon or subject to which any license has been granted under this Regulation, he shall be punishable with fine which may extend to one thousand rupees and, in the case of a continuing offence, with a further fine which may extend to one hundred rupees for each day during which the offence continues, and his license (if any) shall be liable to be revoked by the licensing authority.

(2) If any person is convicted of an offence punishable under this Regulation committed by him in respect of any film the convicting Court may further direct that the film shall be forfeited to His Highness the Maharaja.

Certification of film.

7. (1) The Government may by a notification in the official gazette, constitute as many authorities as it may think fit for the purpose of examining and certifying films as suitable for public exhibition, and declare the area (hereinafter referred to as the 'local area') within which each such authority shall exercise the powers conferred on it by this Regulation. Where an authority so constituted consists of a Board of two or more persons not more than one half of the members thereof shall be persons in the service of Government.

(2) If any such authority after examination considers that a film is suitable for public exhibition, it shall grant a certificate to that effect to the person applying for the same, and shall cause the film to be marked in the prescribed manner. The certificate of any such authority shall, save as hereinafter provided, be valid throughout the areas in which this Regulation is in force.

(3) (*a*) If the authority is of opinion that a film is not suitable for public exhibition in the local area, it shall inform the

person applying for the certificate of its decision, and such person may, within thirty days from the date of such decision, appeal for a reconsideration of the matter by the Government.

(*b*) If the Government rejects the appeal, it shall by notification in the official gazette, direct that the film shall be deemed to be an uncertified film in that local area and such direction shall have effect notwithstanding the subsequent grant of a certificate in respect of the film by any other such authority.

(4) Any such authority may demand the exhibition before itself of any certified film which it has reason to believe is about to be publicly exhibited in its local area and may by order suspend the certificate of any such film pending the orders of Government, and during such suspension the film shall be deemed to be an uncertified film in that area.

(5) The District Magistrate may, by order, suspend the certificate of any film pending the orders of the Government and during such suspension the film shall be deemed to be an uncertified film in that district or town.

(6) A copy of any order of suspension made under sub-section (4) or (5) together with a statement of reasons therefor shall forthwith be forwarded by the authority or the officer making the same to the Government and the Government may in its discretion either discharge the order or, by notification in the official gazette, direct that the film shall be deemed to be an uncertified film in the whole or any part of Mysore.

(7) The Government may, of its own motion, by notification in the official gazette, direct that a certified film shall be deemed to be an uncertified film in the whole or any part of Mysore.

(8) The exhibition of a film to which any order or direction under clause (*b*) of sub-section (3) or sub-section (4), (5), (6) or (7) is for the time being applicable shall in the area to which such order or direction relates, be deemed to be a contravention of the condition mentioned in sub-section (2) of Section 5.

Power to make rules.

8. (1) The Government may make rules for the purpose of carrying into effect the provisions of this Regulation.

(2) In particular and without prejudice to the generality of the foregoing power, rules under this Section may provide for—

(*a*) the regulation of cinematograph exhibitions for securing the public safety;

(*b*) the procedure of the authorities constituted for examining and certifing films as suitable for public exhibition and all matters ancillary thereto, and the fees to be levied by those authorities;

(*c*) the appointment of officers subordinate to authorities constituted under Section 7 and the regulation of the powers and duties of such

(*d*) any other matter which by this Regulation is to be prescribed.

(3) All rules made under this Regulation shall be published in the official gazette and on such publication shall have effect as if enacted in this Regulation.

Power to exempt.

9. The Government may by order in writing exempt, subject to such conditions and restrictions as it may impose, any cinematograph exhibition or class of cinematograph exhibitions from any of the provisions of this Regulation or of any rule made thereunder.

A. R. BANERJI,
Dewan.